Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 090524Z OCT 73 FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7297 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECRETRANGOON 2365

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS

REF: A. RANGOON 2325 B. BANGKOK 15664

- 1. AT INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION OCTOBER 5
 VICE CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER TIN U WENT OUT OF HIS
 WAY TO TELL ME HOW PLEASED HE WAS THAT RUSSIANS WOULD BE
 RELEASED IN TWO WEEKS, INFORMATION WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED
 TO ME VIA FOREIGN MINISTRY. I EXPLAINED WHAT I HAD
 TOLD FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS THAT WHILE MESSAGE HAD BEEN
 RECEIVED INDICATING THE KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS WOULD BE
 RELEASED WE DID NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE RELEASE PLANS
 FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. WE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT
 WOULD TAKE TO RELEASE RUSSIANS AFTER PLAN RECEIVED.
- 2. BRIGADIER TIN U, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO ALLOW HIS OPTIMISM TO BE DAMPENED. HE MENTIONED HAVING RECEIVED AN "INTERCEPT" INDICATING THAT RUSSIANS WERE STILL ALIVE AND WELL. HE WAS SURE EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO WORK OUT.
- 3. TIN U SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD SOVIET AMBASSADOR ELIZAVETINE THAT RUSSIANS WOULD BE RELEASED IN TWO WEEKS, AGAIN MENTIONING "INTERCEPT" BUT ALSO ATTRIBUTING INFORMATION SECRET

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ON RELEASE TO ME.

4. COMMENT: BRIGADIER TIN U'S REFERENCE TO AN "INTER-CEPT" INDICATES THAT GUB MAY BE MONITORING LOI MAW GROUPS' RADIO COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDING MESSAGES EXCHANGED BETWEEN CHU AND CHANG SHU-CHUAN. THUS THEY MAY KNOW MORE THAN WE DO. IN ANY CASE, IMPORTANT THING IS THAT BRIGADIER TIN U APPEARS TO BE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE PROSPECT OF RUSSIANS' RELEASE AND WANTS IT TO SUCCEED. FOR THIS REASON INTERFERENCE BY GUB (AS SPECULATED IN REF B) SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. MARTIN

SECRET

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